

NSC BRIEFING

25 February 1954

THE SITUATION IN EGYPT

Nagib's removal on 24 February and Nasr's assumption overt authority in Egypt formalizes situation existing several months.

Development not likely bring immediate significant changes in internal or foreign policy.

I. Probable effect on foreign relations:

A. Anglo-Egyptian negotiations: Last six months Nasr involved day to day negotiations with British on Suez question.

1. Considers has conceded more than other Egyptian governments.
2. Doubtful additional compromise without new British move.
3. Such action unlikely due developments in Egypt.
4. Stalemate likely to continue.
5. Nasr's consolidation power may permit more latitude toward settlement.

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B. Egyptian-Soviet relations: Despite

indications willingness deal with USSR, Nasr suspicious closer relations. Standard commercial relations likely continue.

C. Relations with US: Nasr will continue seek US support in negotiations with UK and press for large-scale US military and economic aid.

II. Probable effect on internal affairs. Nasr expected maintain internal order - avoid recourse guerrilla warfare against British in Suez area.

A. Without Nagib's personality as front, regime now appears stark military dictatorship. Early return to constitutional rule unlikely.

B. Loss of Nagib deprives regime considerable popular support necessitating greater reliance police measures.

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C. Lacking counterbalance, Nasr likely

become more arbitrary in internal and
external relations.

D. More friction within ruling army clique
may appear.

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